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The Day of the Pageant.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

ently shared with Shakespeare the onor of several hundred pageants. Youthful Cordelias and Desdamonas have adorned the college campus; the nigh school rifle clubs have turned their activities to killing Caesars and Macbeths; and throughout the country the history of the Indians and first American settlers has for the time be ing been forgotten in the enthusiasm of the early Italian and Anglo-Saxon drama. In almost every large educaional center the windows of the local hotographers are at present attractng great crowds of young Americans who proudly gaze upon themselves as he pageant portravers of Shakespeare. It is not often that two such necesary excuses as preparedness and the ercentenary of the bard demand the roduction of pageants, and the Amerproduction of pageants, and the American public, in whom the dramatic instinct is well developed, is taking advantage of them. This is the day of the historical pageant if there ever was one. When the mere sight of the American flag on a motion picture screen can bring the audience to its feet in patriotic enthusiasm, it is natural that people would rather see the Landing of the Pilgrims and Penn's Treaty with the Indians depicted by their sons and daughters than the latest Broadway problem comedy.

The modern pageant, which has been alled the hybrid product of the procession and the play, was. Types of Pageants Ancient and Modern. form, the foundation of all drama. The Greeks and Romans chose the backgrounds for

their open-air performances, or pageants, with careful regard for the picturesqueness of the scenery and none whatever for the convenience of the audience. One time the site selected faced a wide river. It is not recorded whether the audience sat in boats or whether, in fact, it was witnessed at all, but it shows that the Romans at least did not believe in sacrificing art in deference to the audience.

least did not believe in sacrificing art in deference to the audience.

Throughout the middle ages the pageant was a popular form of entertainment in England, witnessed by all the royal personages, and was eclipsed only with great difficulty by the theater drama, which made its appearance in the time of Shakespeare. Within the past fen years pageants have again become the rage in England, very nearly turning the tables on the theater. In this country the modern pageant had its beginning as early as 1833 in Marietta, Ohio, where a historical series of episodes was given to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the town. The founding of Marietta, the first pioneer settlements and the treaties of peace with the Indians were all depicted by the grand-children and grea-grandchildren of the pioneers, many of whom wore the actual clothing and ornaments of their ancestors, carefully preserved as precious heirlooms.

The Marietta production was considered so important that representatives from several states attended and carried the news back home. From that time on, the pageant has become an established institution in America, consisting of three forms: The parade pageant, made up of floats, companies of costumed marchers and horsemen; outdoor performances, given on selected sites, usually pertaining to history or some long succession of events, and outdoor entertainments in which a series of related scenes are presented to depict a specific theme, such as a people's fight for liberty, the progress of science or the growth of education, and so forth.

While the province of the pageant is to entertain, its purpose is to educate. By no other means,

except perhaps the to Educate. history be so indelimotion picture, may bly impressed upon the mind, and here the pageant is superior to the motion picture in that it reproduces color Each act is planned with a close observance to color and detail, since it has been proved by bitter experience that the audience is sometimes only too well educated on such features The choice of heatly shaved side whiskers for the role of an Apache in one pageant created a great deal of untimely amusement in the audience during one exceptionally pathetic scene, and the use of a German emblem in a Spanish scene another time nearly caused a riot among some Spanish students witnessing the production.

In order that absolute accuracy may be insured the participants are required to do quantities of research work in looking up the customs and clothing of the different characters, all of which is quite as educative to the actor as to his audience. So great has been the rise of the pageant in the last few years that a new profession has been called into being—that of the pageant director. When a community decides to give an elaborate pageant these days, it turns the author's manuscript over to a paid director, who stages the production as carefully as does the average manager on a legitimate circuit. In view of the eccentricities of amateur talent, the director's job is not always enviable. A professional actress watching a director battling with a chorus of local debutantes for over an hour, turned to one of the performers and exclaimed, "Oh, the martyrdom of directing amateurs!" "Yes," agreed the young performer, "you see, he can't swear at us the way they do at you professionals." whiskers for the role of an Apache in

The ideal site for the outdoor stage is at the foot of a hillside, which form an attractive back-Foot of Hillside ground and a sound the Ideal Site. the voices are thrown ing board by which forward. A splendid example of this is the grove of the Bohemian Club in California, where the stage is thus situated and framed by the trunks of large redwood trees. A small imperceptible trail leads up the steep acclivity, by which the performers make their entrance, concealed until the last moment by the dense growth of shrubs and trees. At the front of this large natural amphitheater is a pit in which the orchestra, numbering over fifty pieces, plays through the program. The

pieces, plays through the program. The pageants of the Bohemian Club take place at night and the stage is illuminated with electric apparatus constructed for the purpose.

In Lexington, where a pageant was given commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of peace between the British and the Minute Men, the site chosen was one of beautiful natural scenery, and the artificial preparations took months to build. This pageant was also given at night, and at the front of a smooth lawn stage 800 feet deep by nearly twice the size in width was a trench containing a steam curtain apparatus. A curtain of steam rose after the conclusion of each act, and, on this searchlights played, creating a film of irridescent mist. The first time it rose a company of symbolic dancers was disclosed; then came the Indians paddling their cances on a lake, which was part of the stage; next came the settlers, occupied with spinning wheels, axes and guns; followed the symbolic founding of Lexington in the New England wilderness, the ride of Paul Revere and the Battle of the Minute Men. After this the Goddess of Peace gave a picturesque dance and the Red Coat and the Minute Man stood united under an olive branch.

spotlight played a large part in the effects obtained in Spotlight Plays

Important Part.

Important Part.

In the slopes of Art the slopes of Art thill. This pageant and masque was given as an experiment in municipal drams and proved a great success in play together, found that they could be desire for the community pageant.

of St. Louis, which, in attempting to play together, found that they could be better work together for the great-est civic glory of their city. Here the southwestern European showed his worth, and now St. Louis does not listen to any disparaging comparisons

spotlight played a large part in the effects obtained in the effects obtained in the south of Spotlight Plays

demonstration whose theatrical values are comparable with those of war, will they be content with peace. The color of the mertals uniforms, the glory of the mertal uniforms, the glory of the mertal uniforms, the glory of the mertal uniforms, the glory of the mortal uniforms, the glory of the mertal uniforms, are to be every bit as great as the Celtifue, the crim ward, S. H. Styles.

DECORATED BY CHINA.

Charles H. Green Receives Mark of Honor for Aid Bendered at Fair.

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The Gaument Brack of the Chi'n Chi. the Chi ward, S. H. Styles.

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